



SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

EXHIBIT NO. 6DATE 1.23.09BILL NO. SB 166

Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2008

State of Montana

Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak operates one daily long-distance train through Montana, the *Empire Builder* (Chicago-Minneapolis/St. Paul-Havre-Glacier Park-Seattle/Portland).

During FY08 Amtrak served the following Montana locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
Browning (winter only)	2,269
Cut Bank	3,455
East Glacier (summer only)	15,759
Essex	4,941
Glasgow	6,351
Havre	17,759
Libby	6,062
Malta	4,095
Shelby	18,881
West Glacier	7,396
Whitefish	72,207
Wolf Point	8,280
Total Montana Station Usage:	167,455

Procurement/Contracts

Amtrak expended \$268,336 for goods and services in Montana in FY08.

Employment

At the end of FY08, Amtrak employed 43 Montana residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Montana were \$3,604,411 during FY08.

Expansion Planning

Amtrak is studying the feasibility of establishing passenger rail service along a corridor roughly defined as Billings on the East and Missoula on the west, at the request of the Montana Department of Transportation. The study determines the potential ridership, revenue and operating costs, the optimum service schedule and the capital costs required to develop marketable passenger train service.

As part of the enacted Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008, Amtrak has been directed to further determine the feasibility of restoring service along an expanded route extending east to Fargo and west to Spokane, with assumed connections to Chicago and Seattle via existing Amtrak service at those points. Amtrak fully intends to comply with the stipulations of this legislation.

Selected Highlights

In FY08, ridership on the Empire Builder increased by 9.8% to 554,266, continuing its run as the most popular Amtrak long-distance train for the fifth consecutive year.

A study by R.L. Banks & Associates commissioned by the state of Montana concluded that the ***Empire Builder*** contributes nearly \$14 million annually in economic benefits to Montana.